Construction of Tourist Bungalows in NE region

2737. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of action-plan taken by Government to attract tourists to the North East Region.

(b) whether there is any plan to build tourists bungalows and to provide other facilities in such historical places like Sibsagar, Jorhat, Khaspur (Kachar Dist.) and also improve facilities in Kaziranga sanctuaries; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider to provide these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) (I) Allocation of 10% of Plan funds towards promotion of tourism to North East region.

(II) Inviting foreign media and travel agents/tour operators on a fam trip to North Eastern Region.

(III) Up-grading the GOITO at Guwahati to the level of Regional Director for better co-ordination for the North Eastern States.

(IV) Additional Central Financial assistance for use of Information Technology in the field of Tourism in the NE region.

(b) Central Financial assistance was provided to build way side amenities at Jorhat, way side amenities and for upgrading existing tourist lodge at Sibsagar, to build a Yatri Niwas at Khaspur (Cachar Dist.) and for upgrading existing tourist lodge and children's outdoor recreational facilities at Kaziranga.

(c) Does not arise.

Decline in Tourist Inflow

2738. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether India losses out in race to lure tourists in the new year;

(b) the percentage of decline in tourists in comparison to last two years; and

(c) the special measures proposed to attract foreign tourist ?